United Nations S/2011/717

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009) and 1948 (2010), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 21 October 2011, which I received from Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, transmitting the twenty-sixth quarterly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2011.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

11-59273 (E) 151111

Please recycle

Annex

Letter dated 21 October 2011 from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009) and 1948 (2010), please find attached the twenty-sixth three-monthly report to the Security Council on the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Catherine **Ashton**

Enclosure

Report of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011.

2. The Security Council, in its resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009) and 1948 (2010), requested Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU), to report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR, through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This is the twenty-sixth such report.

II. Political background

3. The political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be difficult. By the end of the reporting period a State-level government had not been formed and there was a clear lack of dialogue between the political parties. As a result, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued to function in a caretaker capacity. Unsuccessful efforts to reach a political agreement on the formation of a government also delayed the inauguration of the House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina until 20 May 2011. Owing to the deadlock, no State-level legislation was adopted during the reporting period, including the State budget.

4. The Federation government was formed on 17 March by the coalition, led by the Social Democrat Party. However, following the nomination of the government, relations worsened between the government bloc and the majority Croat bloc (the Croat Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ BiH) and the Croat Democratic Union 1990 (HDZ 1990)), which did not take part in the government. On 28 March, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, used his Bonn powers to suspend two decisions issued by the Central Election Commission in relation to the formation of the Federation government.

5. The use of nationalistic and negative rhetoric has continued after the general elections. Political leaders from Republika Srpska have continued to question the sovereignty and sustainability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 13 April, the Republika Srpska National Assembly adopted a series of conclusions and a decision to hold a referendum on the powers of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competences of the State-level judicial institutions. The conclusions inter alia rejected the authority of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina to impose legislation. Following a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the EU High Representative/Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, on 13 May, the Republika Srpska authorities voted on 1 June to annul the decision on a referendum and to review the previously adopted conclusions.

6. The Peace Implementation Council Steering Board met in Sarajevo on 29 and 30 March. It urged the rapid formation of a government at the State-level

which would be ready to adopt the reforms necessary for Euro-Atlantic integration. The Steering Board also noted that there had been limited progress in addressing the conditions and objectives which had to be met before the closure of the Office of the High Representative. Furthermore, the Steering Board supported the engagement of EUFOR in relation to the inter-entity boundary line.

7. In the wake of the arrest on 26 May of General Ratko Mladic, the war-time commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, on charges on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including his role in the Srebrenica genocide, protest rallies were organized in Republika Srpska; however, they were largely peaceful. The largest rally took place in Banja Luka on 31 May and was attended by between 7,000 and 8,000 people. Following the arrest of Mladic and his transfer to The Hague, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina lifted, on 10 June, all decisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina relating to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia enacted by his predecessors. Those decisions included bans on 58 individuals, orders blocking the accounts of 34 individuals and a requirement for the SDS party to provide the Office of the High Representative with monthly financial reports.

8. On 21 March, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which the EU member States reiterated the unequivocal EU commitment to the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council underlined the EU common security and defence missions, namely the EU Police Mission and EUFOR Althea, as important elements of its overall strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council also underlined its commitment to reinforcing its presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina by establishing a single EU representative in the country who would take the lead in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina on EU-related matters. On 30 May, the EU High Representative/Vice-President of the European Commission nominated Peter Sørensen as the new Head of Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

9. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric continued, but it had no impact on the safe and secure environment. The economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained unfavourable, leading to social tension. The political stalemate, and the economic and financial problems, if not addressed in an appropriate manner, could become of increasing concern. Security-related incidents continued to be handled professionally and capably by the law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. The arrest of Ratko Mladic was followed by a number of minor incidents, mainly in the Republika Srpska, and various political actors have sought to exploit Mladic's arrest to advance their respective agendas. With regard to the safe and secure environment, no major disturbance related to the arrest is anticipated in the immediate future.

11. The EUFOR force of some 1,300 troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continued to implement its key military tasks of supporting the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to maintain the stable and secure environment; and

capacity-building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also continued to support the law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against organized crime, in close cooperation with the EU Police Mission; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the search for persons indicted for war crimes.

12. Implementation of non-executive capacity-building tasks continued during the reporting period. Twenty-two mobile training teams deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide specific training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continued to participate in combined capacity-building and training conferences together with representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The implementation of the capacity-building tasks is considered a success and contributes to the improvement of the quality and expertise of units of the Armed Forces.

13. EUFOR continued to monitor, mentor and advise in order to enhance the self-sustainability of capabilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that context, EUFOR continued monitoring activities relating to ammunition and weapons storage sites, the civilian and military movement of weapons and military equipment, the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition, and defence industry factories.

IV. Outlook

14. The security situation is expected to remain stable, despite the prospects of continuing political difficulties.